

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02
ACDA-10 IO-13 /094 W
-----092028Z 088371 /44

R 091608Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8893
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 539

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS EI UK (NI)
SUBJ: BRITISH SOLDIERS FINED AND FREED IN IRISH COURT

1. THE EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH ARMY'S ELITE SPECIAL AIR SERVICES WHO WERE ARRESTED IN THE REPUBLIC LAST MAY AFTER STRAYING INTO THE REPUBLIC WERE EACH FINED ONE HUNDRED POUNDS YESTERDAY AND RELEASED. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE RELIEF EVIDENT IN BOTH GOVERNMENTS THAT THE JUDGE WAS LENIENT. THE CASE HAS BEEN SOMETHING OF A CAUSE CELEBRE HER ("VIOLATION OF SOVEREIGNTY") AND A SOURCE OF SOME FRICTION BETWEEN HMG AND THE GOI. AFTER THE VERDICT THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR SAID: QUOTE WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THE MEN HAVE BEEN ACQUITTED OF ANY ILL-INTENT IN THE REPUBLIC. THE FINES WHICH WERE IMPOSED WERE MORE OR LESS MANDATORY AND THEY WILL BE PAID BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE UNQUOTE

2. THE BRITISH EMBASSY CAME OUT OF THIS AFFAIR WITH SOME EGG ADHERING TO THE FACE. THEIR MILITARY ATTACHE ATTEMPTED TO SMUGGLE SOME BOOZE INTO THE COURTROOM, APPARENTLY IN ORDER TO HAVE A CELEBRATION WITH THE SAS MEN (ASSUMING, EVIDENTLY, THEY WOULD GET OFF
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LIGHTLY). THE BOTTLES WERE FOUND AND PRESENTED TO THE JUDGE, WHO DID NOT CONFISCATE IT BUT GAVE A STERN LECTURE. ALL OF THIS WAS GLEEFULLY REPORTED IN THE IRISH PAPERS. CURLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, TRIALS, COURT DECISIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DUBLIN00539
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770081-0691
Format: TEL
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770379/aaaacriv.tel
Line Count: 59
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b9665ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3165343
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH SOLDIERS FINED AND FREED IN IRISH COURT
TAGS: PINS, EI, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b9665ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009